

A NEW SPECIES OF *MICONIA* (MELASTOMATACEAE) FROM
DOMINICA, LESSER ANTILLES

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ABSTRACT

Miconia mornicola is described from Dominica.

KEY WORDS: Melastomataceae, *Miconia*, Lesser Antilles, systematics.

During preparation of Melastomataceae for D.H. Nicolson's *Flora of Dominica, Part 2, Dicotyledones* (in press), a new taxon was detected. Publication was delayed for lack of flowering material and the inability to determine whether the species was dioecious, as expected, or if the flowers were bisexual as they are in the most recent collections.

Miconia mornicola A.C. Nicolson, *sp. nov.*

A *Miconia globuliflora* (L. Richard) Cogniaux foliis obtuse caudiculatis, floribus bisexualibus et seminibus majoribus, laevibus differt. HOLOTYPE: DOMINICA: Morne Diablotins, "elfin woodland on ridge dominated by *Clusia*, alt. 4,500 ft, shrub 2.5 m. Calyx [hypanthium] purple. Petals white, reflexed, soon falling. Stamens splayed; filaments white, anthers cream; dark ring around white ovary. Leaf mid-green, glossy." 2 Dec 1988, A. Lack, M. Purkins & A. Taylor 1 (BM); Isotype: US-3145481.

Dense tree to 3 m; young leaves and branches sparsely rusty-scurfy; leaves 5 veined, glabrous, coriaceous, gland dotted beneath, margins dentate with incurved teeth, broadly elliptic, abruptly bluntly caudate, base obtuse-acute, 3.5-5 x 2.5-3 cm; petiole 1-1.5 cm; inflorescence pyramidal-paniculate, to 7 cm; flowers pentamerous, pedicels 1 mm; hypanthium 1.4 mm, rosy purple, darker within; calyx white, ca 1 mm, tube 0.4 mm, sepals triangular, 0.6 mm, persistent; petals white, round, strongly reflexed, fugacious, 1.7 x 2 mm; stamens 10, 3.5 mm long, broadly spreading at anthesis, filaments 2 mm long, anthers to 1.5 mm, cream, connective with a blunt, basal, bilobed, dorsal tooth to 0.5 mm long and a lobed ventral appendage to 0.2 mm; style exerted before

petals open, to 4 mm long, glabrous, stigma scarcely expanded, ovary white, trilocular, 1/3 inferior; fruits globular, bluish. 3 mm; seeds 15-20, smooth, 1.1 x 0.6 mm.

Known only in dwarf forests of Dominican mountain tops: Morne Anglais (*Nicolson 4106*), Morne Diablotins (*Chambers 2643; Lack, et al. 2*), Morne Trois Pitons (*Ernst 1116A, 2041; Hodge 1420*). Flowering early December, fruiting late January (*Chambers, Nicolson*).

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